



NEWS RELEASE

LINCOLN FIRE & RESCUE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 4, 2002
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Lincoln Fire & Rescue, Urban Search & Rescue team to deploy to Salt Lake City, Utah Winter Olympics

The Lincoln Fire & Rescue Department's Urban Search & Rescue Task Force (NETF1) will be on standby duty February 10–17 in the Salt Lake City area. Base of Operations facilities and equipment staging areas are available for the Task Force at a secured area. Additional forward staging area locations have also been identified. The Lincoln Fire & Rescue Department's Task Force along with 5 other Task Forces, was selected more than 1 year ago from the 28 teams in the nation to be upgraded for this duty. The six teams selected received in excess of \$500,000 worth of specialized equipment and training, in preparation for weapons of mass destruction response.

Members of the Task Force were involved in the aftermath of September 11, and the search and rescue efforts at both the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. The highly specialized US&R Task Forces are intended to supplement local resources when needed. The Task Force will deploy with 70 members, and will join other Task Force personnel from across the U.S.

Salt Lake City, Utah, will host the 2002 Olympic Winter Games From February 8 to February 24, 2002. These will be the fourth Olympic Winter Games to be held in the United States, and the first of the new millennium. The Winter Olympics are expected to attract unprecedented attention from local, national, and international media with the arrival of athletes and visiting dignitaries from 80 countries.

Extensive planning and preparations involving Federal, State, and local agencies along with the Salt Lake Organizing Committee and Utah Olympic Public Safety Command have been taking place for more than 4 years to deal with any incident that may occur during the Olympic Games. To shorten potential Federal response times for natural disasters or manmade emergencies that could arise during the 2002 Olympic Winter Games, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has conducted planning with key Federal Response Plan (FRP) agencies and the State of Utah. FEMA has also coordinated with the U.S. Secret Service and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to identify potential requirements and clarify roles and responsibilities among the three lead agencies.

The 2002 Olympic Winter Games has been designated as a National Security Special Event (NSSE) by the Attorney General and Secretary of the Treasury, and a Special Events Readiness Level I by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The FBI has advised FEMA that there are no positive indications of a terrorist threat at this time against the 2002 Olympic Winter Games.

Local first responders have reported that their general level of preparedness, while adequate for day-to-day response, may require augmentation for a situation involving mass casualties, weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and structural collapse.

FEMA is preparing to pre-position National US&R Response System resources in the Salt Lake City area. Plans provide for a US&R Incident Support Team (IST) and two WMD-qualified National US&R Task Forces to be in place during the Olympic Games.

The Lincoln community will not have any loss of emergency services capability during the task force deployment.

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